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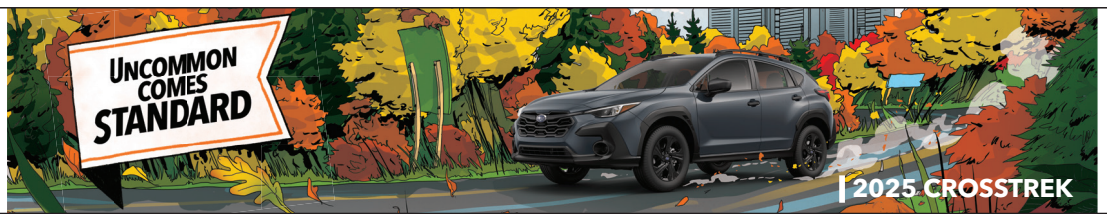

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Boating buddies
A look into fantastic friendships on page 5

Exploring the community
Hiking Haliburton on page 8

Thanksgiving gratitude
Celebrating life's little moments on page 10

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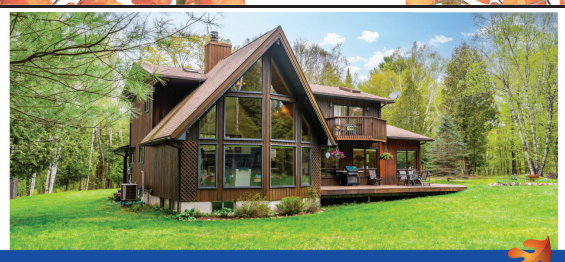

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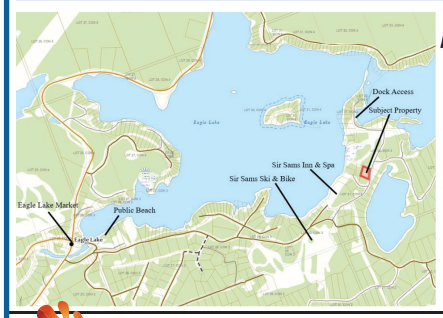

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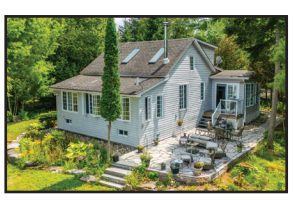

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Milkweed

Milkweed pods bursting at the seams,
their swollen bellies splitting open, releasing seeds, Wind carrying the tufts of fluff through blue Air,
over the field where milkweed grows, toward the road where I stand, watching the flurry
of white fluff catch the light,
holding out my hand to see if it can grasp the silky strands, but the milkweed seeds float higher and higher,
up toward Sky, passing the tops of pines that fringe the road, some landing in the branches of birches
or passing a leaf as it loosens from its tree, I watch a tuft of fluff drift toward the ground,
landing in a thatch of tall grasses, clinging to the blade of a green spine, 'till I bend down to scoop it up
and place it in the cup of my palm, stroking the strands of fluff, softer than a feather,
'till Wind snatches the fluff from my hand, and I watch it float back up into Air,
passing other milkweed seeds and leaves on their flight, not knowing where they will land,
carried along on the current of Wind, after being sealed in the darkness of their pods,
unlike leaves, that feel Air and light from the moment they unfurl into the world,
I curl my empty hand into a fist, missing the softness of the silky strands, as milkweed fluff passes over me,
my feet remain rooted to the road, my eyes, enchanted by what they see,
a field of swollen-bellied milkweed pods,
some, still sealed tight as my fist, others, ripened enough to release their seeds,
I crouch down to pluck up another one that lands on the side of the road,
the strands of white fluff loosening from their seed, the breeze of my Breath blows them back up into Air,
and my hand is left cradling the brown seed, wondering whether I should have left it be,
to wait down there on the ground, for Wind to snatch it back up and carry it through Air,
now, the tuft of fluff is floating, seedless, the silky white strands, scattering,
without knowing where they will land, like the copper and crimson leaves that pass them on their flight,
a yellow leaf nearly colliding with a tuft of fluff as it floats toward the field where milkweed grows,
Wind seizing it from its tree across the road, I wonder how long it will twirl through Air before it lands,
in a field of milkweed or on a patch of grass beneath another tree, far from its own,
every leaf that once fluttered on the cluttered branch of a tree, each milkweed seed that was sealed in darkness
'till it was released from the stillness of its cramped space, now floats alone through the world of Air and light,
my hand reaches up to catch a tuft of fluff, but it drifts too high,
already swallowed by the blue of a bottomless Sky.

Sylvie Kalenda

Beavers - nature's engineers

Land Trust Discovery Days
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025
Time: 10 a.m. to noon
Location: 1225 25th Line Road, Algonquin Highlands (parking available on site)

Join Sheila Ziman and Mary Anne Barkhouse to learn more about beavers. These remarkable animals are the world's best engineers, creating new habitats and enriching biodiversity as they work. See how Sheila has been living cooperatively (more or less!) with the beavers in her pond. See beaver lodges, tunnels and other evidence of their work up close and learn about a variety of ways to manage beaver activity on your property. Visit the HHLT website to register. Admission by donation.

This event is funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

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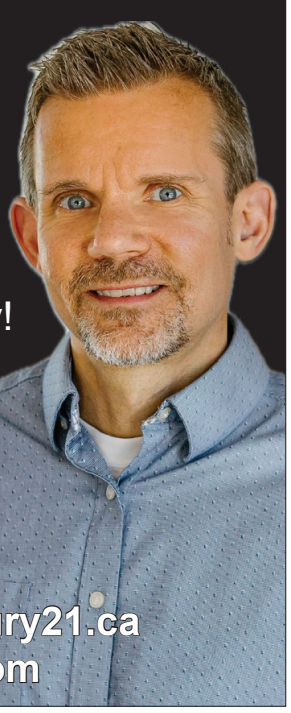

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CountyLife

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The nosebleed seat

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

NOW THAT the bear season is in full swing and the archery season for deer is just around the corner, hunters will be putting up their tree stands.

This might not seem very interesting to you, but I happen to believe that some up and coming psychiatric researcher should do a study on why men and women choose to spend long hours sitting in trees and what the height of a tree stand says about their general level of sanity.

Also, I believe that just as you can age a tree by its rings, you can age a hunter by the height and precariousness of his or her tree stands. Sometimes by as much as 30 years, if it is windy.

When I was younger, I hunted on a southern Ontario farm for deer, and the farmer – a man of questionable good will – told me I needed to sit in a tree stand to cover a field he knew deer would visit. He pointed up to the crown of a tree where he had somehow (I believe by helicopter) placed a wooden pallet and said, "You need to watch the field from up there."

Up there was at least 30 feet away – high enough to give a hunter a nosebleed, and worse if he or she fell.

Better still, the "ladder" up to the stand was a work of pure minimalism. Basically, it consisted of two by four sections nailed to the trunk of the tree – and, being a farmer, my friend didn't waste a lot of money on nails either.

It got even better at the end. For it was at that point you had to kind of hug the tree with one arm and reach for the edge of the pallet with the other. Then, once you had accomplished that, you had to swing one-armed, then grab the edge with the other arm, and do a chin up into the platform – not an easy thing to do while soiling your pants.

I just looked at him and said, "I'll hunt from the ground, thank you very much."

To which he said, "Suit yourself, but you won't see a single deer from there."

It turned out he was right. So, on the second day, I got my affairs in order and ascended the tree. By the time I had settled in the platform I had developed a relationship with God and a new-found appreciation of ground blinds.

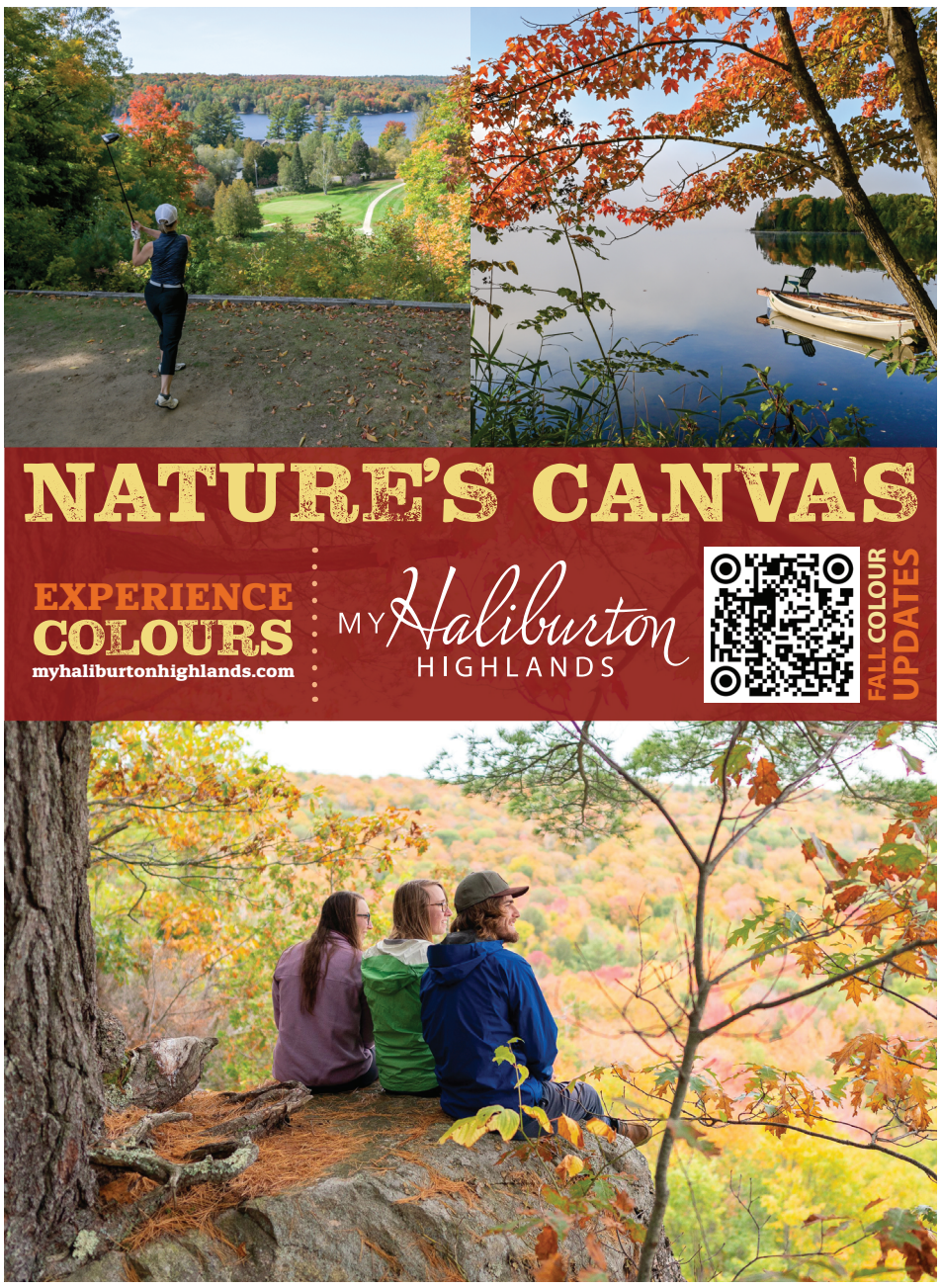
Settled is not exactly the right word. For there were no safety rails surrounding the platform and the tree swayed impressively with the wind. Plus, it was then that I realized that the rope I had attached to my shotgun to hoist it up had tangled on a lower branch. So, I had to go down, untangle it, and do it all over again.

Eventually, however, I got in the stand and, half an hour, later, shot a respectable buck from it.

That was the last time I climbed into a tree stand without a safety harness. It was also the last time I did a chin up.

The worst part was, later that week, I refused to go up again. Instead, I sat on the ground with my back to a tree. That's when I realized that the farmer was right. I did not see a single deer while I was on the ground.

I saw two walk by me within touching range …



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In the same boat

WE HAVE some very nice friends. I haven't quite worked out what transforms strangers into pals, but I can speculate. Media messages help inform my speculation. Journalists know all about informing. Good ones aim to express with just the right balance of intuition, experience and opinion. I prefer thoughtful journalism, where editorialists consider bigger pictures while sincerely asserting themselves.

I think I know what attracts me to a friend's writing. Aside from my personal appreciation of humour and wordplay, I also love every sweet hint of humanity. My own reassurances of genuine decency. Warm tangible notes of optimism, beauty and joy.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

The Golden Rule was imprinted on the back of my elementary classroom ruler. The slightly-warped wooden kind with inches, and a metal edge. I still have mine. 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' Talk about 'old school' media. But it's timelessly valid, based on open hearts and great expectations. Outside of other places we might learn life's 'rules', wise teachers also help install guideline ethics into silent seated children. 'A life well-lived' has noble intentions. It seeks to inform, challenge, empower, delight. Although we all hold our separate histories, attitudes and emotions, most of us truly want to try our best. And we all hope for equal returns.

Friendships are sometimes like The Golden Rule. Observe, apply your best, appreciate. If we pursue with curiosity, a happy energy might develop. Hunch, risk, trust. We don't need to measure every inch of commonality. We simply approach on speculation. Then we relax.

My own favourite friendships seem based around mutual passions for many things, compassion for most things, and with loads of wry humour woven like DNA all around and inside.

Four newer friends recently enjoyed a fall colour cruise on Lake Muskoka. We'd preordered Thanksgiving lunch, and were graciously served among proper table settings in an antique panelled dining room. We spent the remainder of our afternoon on the upper deck. Sunlight shafted over Group of Seven islands, cormorant-loaded rocks, and cantilevered cottages exquisitely engineered to marry Canadian Shield with celebrity money. Waves flickered under a perfectly-loaded sky, and breezes felt briefly like visits to Newfoundland. While three of us leaned serenely against polished old railings, lulled by boat engine and turkey torpor, the fourth discreetly searched her cellphone, cued up YouTube, and waited for her moment. And, ultimately, there it was…

That unmistakeable uplifting Celtic tin whistle prelude to *My Heart Will Go On*, followed instantly by *Every night in my dreams, I see you…* warbled titanically on crowded bow in unabashed Céline Dion impersonation, complete with enhanced fist-clutching and vibrato. She happens to be a devoted and articulate journalist, fully aware of golden rules and today's troubled politics. And although one older tourist couple stole nervously inside, we four carried on, in character, on front deck, and much enchanted by our very own wry surprise.

Life carries on. It can get terribly serious, but friendships can help with that.

Editor's Thoughts

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Snapshot

Every autumn, our hydrangea bush towers towards the sky, its papery-thin blossoms easing their way into a muted pink, while they contrast with the sharp oranges of the trees saying goodbye.

Every autumn, I tell myself to take a picture of the image in front of me. There's something so poetic about the shift from the soft pastel shades to the crunch of bold colours.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

And every autumn, it's too late.

By the time I think to snap a photo, the hydrangeas are drained, the leaves have fallen.

Those few short days where the seasons swirl and meld to form colour contrasts unlike any other, they're fleeting.

And suddenly, they're gone.

I am guilty of this for fall colours as well. Many are.

In our community, avid leaf-viewers are actively waiting for the peak. A crescendo of colour that signifies the end of one season, the beginning of another.

As I drove down my winding road each day this autumn, I noticed the leaves changing. Some days they stood in stark contrast to a seamless sky; the backdrop of blue boldening the dashes of orange, the flares of red.

'I should take a picture,' I thought to myself, many times.

But each time, I would look at the clock.

'I'll be late if I pull over,' sometimes. Other times: "what if someone drives by and sees me taking pictures on my phone? Would that be weird?" Often, it would be: "I'll grab it tomorrow, maybe the colours will be brighter."

Now, the trees are crinkled and browned. The once vibrant bursts are past their prime; replaced with stark spindly branches and a newly-felled carpet of decaying mulch.

And as I drive by now, I feel a little pang of regret. I missed my chance. There were dozens of perfectly imperfect moments to get that shot, and I put it off.

There's always next autumn, I told myself.

But maybe next autumn will be different. Maybe factors will fall into place that will make the light lacklustre, the colours clash. Maybe our contexts will vary, our timings won't align.

It should have happened this autumn. I should have made it happen.

I try to keep this little thought active in my mind as I weave my way through life. When my back aches from carrying my toddler, I know one day will come where I pick him up and put him down one last time, his long legs taking flight as they run into the world, leaving the shadows of his infancy like whispers in the wind.

When my eyes are sore from scanning computer screens, reading and re-reading our community newspapers before I put them (and myself) to bed, I know that one day, there's a risk that newspapers will not be what they once were; the populations moving eagerly towards digital worlds and sensationalized media.

Life is fleeting, life is fast. It takes shape in a series of colours and contexts, each one differing from the last. We can only control so much, before the hands of time sweeps its way across our storyline.

But those moments of beauty - perhaps made all the more beautiful by knowing they are temporary - they are worth capturing, worth celebrating, worth snapping the shot of.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a photo to take.

Top 10 reasons trees drop leaves in autumn

SCIENCE CAN provide all sorts of reasons why trees drop their leaves in autumn. Basically, everything from energy efficiency and conservation to the need to minimize the snow load a tree carries.

I don't doubt any of that, but I also think that no one has considered this from the tree's personal point of view. Until now. Here are the top 10 reasons why trees like to drop their leaves on autumn

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. To flash the evergreens.
2. To get ready for the new spring lineup.
3. Just sick and tired of all that rustling.
4. To a tree, there is nothing more erotic.
5. Fed up of giving squirrels a place to hide.
6. Tried a few colours other than green and they just don't work.
7. Really enjoy watching humans rake.
8. Not ashamed of their body.
9. Love to cover up rocks and watch people stub toes.
10. Get a kick out of hiding nut caches from pesky squirrels.

Watching

A doe loping past the slope of a hill, toward a tangle
of bushes and trees,
its fawn, following, slants of sunlight stroking their
coats, the fawn's still speckled with flecks of white,
its legs, thin as sticks, as it tails its mother, the pair
pausing at a bush to feast on its leaves,
the fawn reaching for a twig as its mother hovers
nearby, spotting me watching
from the shadow of a willow that grows in the park,
my feet rooted to the grass,
my eyes mesmerized by the litheness of the pair of
deer, how they suddenly appeared
at the top of the hill,
when I turned my head, prying my eyes away from
the old willow and its yellowing tresses,
drooping like string,
a gust of Wind blowing spears of its leaves from the
tree, fluttering through Air like wingless birds,
landing on blades of grass with the faintest scrape
of a sound, the doe's stillness drawing me deeper into
my own,
the black stones of its eyes, tinier than pebbles from
where I stand, boring right through me,
the doe, frozen, as its fawn nibbles on leaves, I don't
dare take a step, quieting my Breath,
as I stare at the doe that stares back at me, wondering whether my presence poses a threat
to their afternoon foraging and feasting, the fawn
devouring leaves, alongside the doe,
that keeps peering at me,
as if I am interloping on their terrain, this park at the
top of the hill that slopes down toward a stream,
wondering whether the pair of deer drank from it
before they plodded up the hill, a mother and its fawn,
the father, gone, only the pair, sharing their days,
'till the fawn grows and bounds out into the world on
its own,
feasting on leaves as its mother watches over it, its
eyes not leaving mine, as I mumble, Hello,
beneath the willow,
so softly, only Air hears, Wind slinking through its
branches, that droop toward the ground,
the sound of rustling in the bushes, as a third deer
appears, to join the pair,
its coat already fading to the grey of tree bark as it
bends its head to nibble on the branch of a bush,
drawing attention away from me, as the doe lopes
over toward it, grazing the fawn as it pauses,
that's still devouring leaves, I peer up at the willow,
its branches yellowing early this year, bathed in slants
of golden light,
the old willow, standing quiet and still, alongside
other willows that grow here in the park,
not as old as their matriarch that's missing a limb, its
tresses sparser than the others', drooping like string,
but still it stands to feel another fall, the Rain and
Wind storms that it brings,
I glance away from the old willow's limbs to peer
back at the three deer feasting on leaves, but all I see is
bushes and trees,
the fawn's white tail bobbing as it lopes back down
the slope of the hill, following its mother and the third
deer that appeared,
wondering whether they will pause to drink from
the stream, before they meander their way back Home,
and nestle beneath a tree, whether in a pair, or all
three, the forest canopying them
as they curl into sleep,
dreaming of a future feast.

Sylvie Kalenda

ENJOY both weekends!

October 11,12

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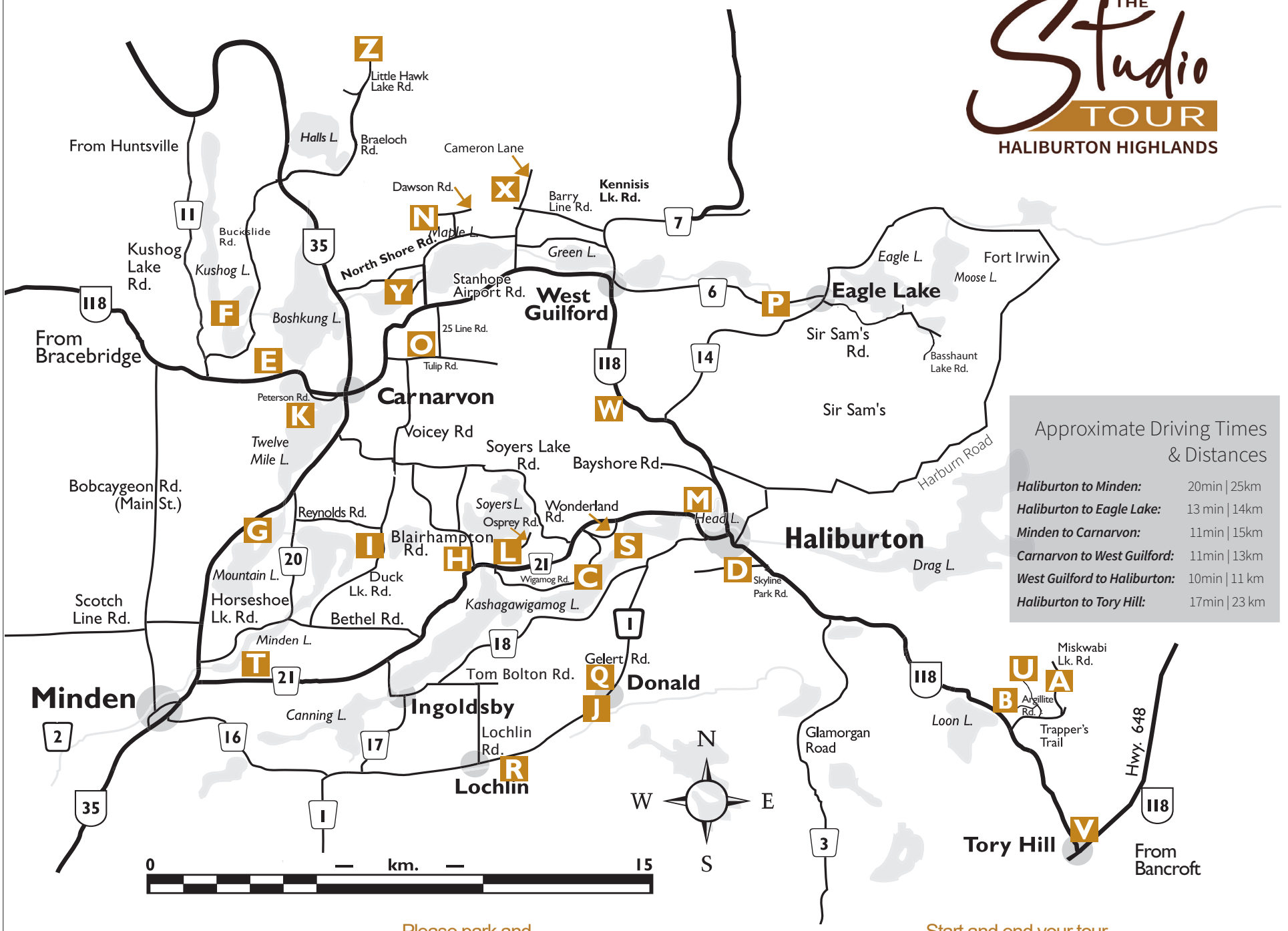

Approximate Driving Times & Distances

Haliburton to Minden:	20min | 25km
Haliburton to Eagle Lake:	13 min | 14km
Minden to Carnarvon:	11min | 15km
Carnarvon to West Guilford:	11min | 13km
West Guilford to Haliburton:	10min | 11 km
Haliburton to Tory Hill:	17min | 23 km

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Blades and boots

RICK WHITTEKER
Naturally Yours

THERE COMES a time when it makes sense to try something different. As a volunteer hike leader for the Hike Haliburton Festival for the past twenty years, the timing was right to offer a hike with a twist. Like food combos that compliment each other, combining paddling and hiking is a logical mix of two great outdoor activities into one experience.

A scaled-down option from the fantastic Bear Mountain Adventure paddle/hike, the Blades and Boots tour includes a modest paddle on St. Nora Lake and an engaging hike on the Frost Centre trails. Starting at the dock on St. Nora Lake south of Dorset, a group of eleven adventurers arrived with a flotilla of watercraft including three canoes and five kayaks. The kayaks ranged from fit-in-your-hatchback recreational kayaks to a Georgian Bay worthy sea kayak. With a group of some festival newbies, seasonal residents and some familiar local faces, we had a great group to test out this inaugural route.

Sunshine and a gentle breeze greeted the day. Keeping their watercraft going straight in a breeze was the only paddling criteria requested for the tour and everyone surpassed that standard during our paddle to lakeside campsite 66. Stopping in a calm bay, we noted the way the white pines towered over all other trees on the hills surrounding the lake. Long lived and sun loving, white pines have thick, straight trunks and minimal lower branching when growing in mature forests. The early logging era centred around these trees as they were ideal for making the masts needed for the Britain›s Royal Navy's merchant fleet and warships.

Paddling near St. Margaret Island, this large island was originally bought by the Woodruff family and named after their daughter Margaret. It is not clear where the saint designation came from, but during World War One, Margaret tapped the sugar maples on the island and sent over bottles of maple syrup to the men in the trenches. I think they deemed her a saint after that! Historical records indicate there is a dog cemetery on the island. Forget-me-knots were planted at each burial site, since spreading throughout the island.

Lakeside lunch. /photos by Rick Whiteker

Pulling our boats up at the campsite, this spot was a perfect location for launching the "boots" part of our tour. With a flat rock point to enjoy some lunch and a "boom box" backcountry cedar toilet, this site met all our bio break needs.

About two kilometers long from the campsite, the High Crest Trail has some steady ascents and descents, but otherwise undulates like the typical terrain of Haliburton County. The shrub

see page 9

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Thanksgiving Recycling

Sort your recycling into containers and papers!

Recycling for Containers

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

Aluminum foil and trays | Metal food cans | Plastic cups (empty and clean) | Plastic bottles (caps can be left on)

Recycling for Papers

Boxboard | Paper egg cartons | Paper cups (empty and clean) | Brown paper bags | Paper towel rolls

Garbage

Dirty paper, plastic, Styrofoam plates | Plastic cutlery | Plastic liner bags | Dirty napkins | Food waste (consider composting)

Did you know? Dysart ratepayers can drop-off household batteries, clothing (including clothing that is ripped or stained), electronics, and scrap metal, at all five of Dysart's waste disposal sites.
Visit **www.dysartetal.ca/recycle** for more information.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

Naturally Yours

from page 8

hobblebush thrives along the trail below the ridge. With sprawling branches that hang down loosely, these plants are known to trip (or hobble) walkers. Producing beautiful white flower clusters in the spring and red berries in the summer, their large, finely toothed leaves turn a burgundy colour in the fall, adding to the colour palette of the forest understory.

The High Crest Trail follows an elevated ridge which runs above a deep valley. The native groundcover plant, wintergreen, grows in patches along the trail with some of their glossy green leaves also turning a deep burgundy colour, likely from this year's dry conditions. Sapsucker, hairy and pileated woodpecker excavations were spotted all along the route as was silvery-green reindeer lichen on rocky, open sections on the ridge and rock tripe, a foliose lichen that hangs loosely from cliffside boulders.

The downhill switchback coming off the ridge down to the main trial system tested the mettle of the group and reinforced the benefits of hiking poles. Returning to the campsite and our boats, this loop took about ninety minutes with plenty of interpretive stops and water breaks. The tour ended back at the Frost Centre with animated chatter, some new friends and even a baby water snake sighting in the gravel parking area.

Autumn calls people to Haliburton County and the Hike Haliburton Festival answers that call with outdoor offerings that provide something for everyone. Started in 2003, this festival is known as the largest hiking festival in Canada. Although an impressive subtitle, it is the quality of the experiences that distinguish this festival from others. Combining learning, outdoor exercise and camaraderie, the festival can be a very satisfying experience.

From a hike leader's perspective, volunteering to share a little local knowledge and spend time outdoors with grateful outdoorsy folks is worth the time and effort. "I was blown away by the festival, the number of interesting hikes…" said one newcomer to the event. It is comments like this, the sense of mutual enjoyment while on the trails makes the Hike Haliburton Festival a win-win for all participants and the County of Haliburton.

A young water snake.

St. Nora Lake paddle.

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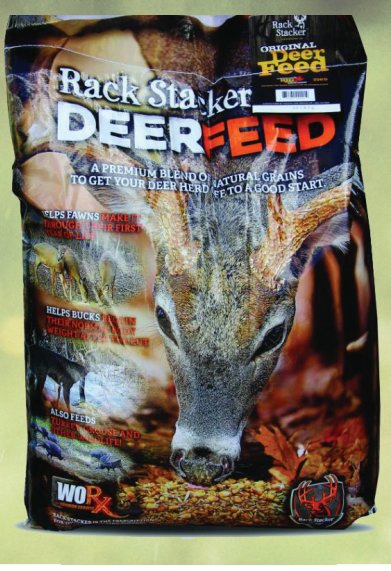

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Minden Home hardware building centre
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(705) 286-1351

Writing on the Senior Side

T is for ...

Is the secret to happiness thankfulness? I have never met a happy person who was not also thankful. We have so much to be thankful for, but our worries and the mess that is happening in the wider world can rob us of this happiness. Sometimes it's hard to keep room in our headspace for daily moments of being thankful. We need a designated autumn holiday to help us. Happy Thanksgiving!

We take the time to walk, kicking the leaves or exploring the Sculpture Forest. Perhaps there will be a hike or one last boat ride. The family flag football extravaganza is always a joy, even as it becomes more difficult for me. I am good at standing in one spot and counting steamboats.

We are on the hunt for a huge turkey, and we are so pleased that this year, we will split up the making of the feast. We will do the turkey, dressing, and gravy. Our children will bring the vegetables, buns, cranberry sauce and their childhood favourite, Chudleigh's pumpkin and apple crumble pies. Living on the senior side means admitting you'd like some help and knowing you will get more than you need.

Do you remember the poem you probably wrote every year in elementary school, where you took the letters of Thanksgiving and wrote what you were thankful for? I have decided to write this poem again from my life on the senior side. Yes, it is "cheesey." (Do young people still use that word?) I know you get it, and I hope you will allow me my cheesey approach to being thankful.

T - is for think and thoughtful. Think before you speak and be considerate of others. You never know what is going on in someone's life. I am thankful for the people in my life who are the thoughtful thinkers. I can carry this with me throughout the year.

H - is for helping others. When I was a principal, I was often given the gift of helping others: a child, a family, a colleague. I call this front-line helping. Being there in someone's moment of need. Never miss a chance to be a front-line helper. It doesn't have to be big things; everything counts, such as the time you helped someone lift their shopping cart over the curb, or the time you took your neighbour to an appointment.

A - is for always making time for morning coffee. Okay, not a lofty thank you, but still important for me to kick-start my day. Would it be better if I said, "Always do what you need to do to stay positive and productive?" How about always finishing a day with a hug? Coffee is still important.

N - is for new. New activities, new outings, new books and stories, new clothes, new foods, new relationships and new people. New keeps us fresh and vibrant, but don't forget the old Girl Guide song: *Make new friends but keep the old*. One is silver and the other is gold. I am thankful for both the new and the old.

K - is for kids - my kids, my grandkids and all the unique and wonderful children who are the future of our country and our world. Protect them, keep them safe and honour their differences.

S - is for sleep, falling asleep, staying asleep, even if it's just sometimes. (not having to get up to use the washroom is good too).

G - is for going for it. Grab those moments that matter and enjoy every minute. Trips to the city to see a grandchild's play or hockey game or celebrate a birthday. When I push, I am rewarded with love, and also well-earned exhaustion. The exhaustion comes later, and at these times, even exhaustion feels good.

I - is for inviting conversation. There was a time when you couldn't stop me. I like to talk to people, and there were so many opportunities. Now I am a little more reticent. Is it an ageism thing? Will I be dismissed because I am old? Oh, the hell with it. I don't care. I like people and I like to talk. If someone wants to think I am a babbling old lady, they own that. I enjoy chatting with people in line at the checkout. I enjoy complimenting friends and strangers. We were at the theatre in Stratford and I stood up to let someone into the seat beside me. I turned around and faced the people behind me. I smiled at them all and said, "Well, hello there, how are you all today? Most smiled, some glared, and one even answered. It was fun, I will do that again.

V - is for volunteering. Get involved once in a while, or as a committed member of a non-profit organization. I have done so much throughout my life, and now I do so little, but when I do, I know I still make a difference, and that is so important to me. I am thankful that I still get asked to help. It is a gift to me.

I - is for imagination. Be creative; write, paint, sculpt, draw, sing, dance. Use your beautiful imagination and be thankful for your creative talents. Anything new on your horizon? I am still plugging away on publishing my book. The line-by-line copy editor is also working on it. I decided on the title and gave the designer my suggestions for the front cover. I am getting so close, and yet I'm still anxious about getting it done. I work at pushing this worry out of my mind. I am excited about the prospect of holding my book in my hand and sharing it.

N - is for never giving in or giving up. You are responsible for your own happiness. Do what makes you happy and don't apologize for doing it. You be you, and you will be thankful. Last year, I was at a luncheon and someone commented that my long white cover-up looked like a wedding dress and asked me if I was getting married again. Others laughed. I just smiled. I didn't like what was said or the laughter, but I liked what I was wearing. I am going to wear it again. I will be me. I almost gave in to senior side peer pressure. Yes, it does exist. I am never giving in to that.

G - is for giving thanks. Take a moment each day to give thanks, count the gifts of your life. Perhaps you will say, "Wow, what a great day." or just "There, I did it. I made it through a difficult day. Both work.

Other not-so-important things: I am thankful when the Blue Jays and Leafs play well. Let's go, Blue Jays! Go Leafs Go! Also, the Seahawks, the Bills, and the Argos. And my 16-year-old granddaughters' hockey team. She is the goalie, and she is so awesome. (What's Thanksgiving without some grandma pride, and that's important!)

One more important thing. I am thankful for Peter and all our amazing family. Okay, I know that goes without saying, but I wanted to say it anyway.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Checking out for others

MY SON works for a manufacturing company in Lindsay; he was asked to do overtime in the engineering department on a Sunday. The gate was open when he arrived and he parked close to the building, the person who opened the gate however, left while he was still working and locked it. Now his car was locked in. The problem was soon sorted, as there is a key kept in the building his supervisor was able to help direct him to.

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

However, it got me thinking how often we do this both literally and figuratively. The other person did not set out to lock the gate with someone inside. I am sure they simply knew that they had unlocked it for their entry and now needed to lock it. There was an attention to detail and a focus on the role they were playing individually, the presence of the extra car was just missed.

We all do this, focus on our liability, our responsibility, our role and sometimes miss the others, the contributions, the cautions, the additions that people are making. None of it intentionally, but rather from a lack of time and space to perhaps, scan the scene, take stock, look up from the work at hand.

It is so disappointing when you are the person whose contribution was not noticed or was missed. Our health and safety committee would always recommend that we survey the scene, check for hazard and in this case, check for others. Notice who is there, who helped, who is on your side and make sure you don't leave them behind.

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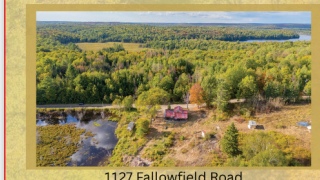

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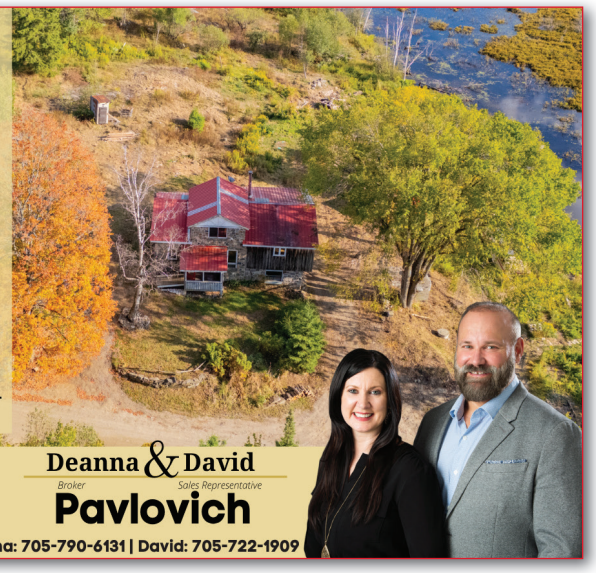

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1053 Cheerful Lane
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EAGLE LAKE $1,310,000

Beautiful home w/ 4 acre/347 ft. of shoreline on Pine Lake. Mn. Fl. open KIT & LR design w/electric FP & separate DR, guest BATH, master B.R. w/ ensuite & walk in closet & lg 4 season sunroom. Finished walkout basement w/radiant in-floor heat, large FAM room w/propane FP & bar. 2 BR, laundry & BATH on lower level. Lakeside deck, sandy shoreline & stone patio w/fire pit. Att GAR w/ workshop. Year round road, close to West Guilford, Lakeside Golf Club & Sir Sams Ski/Ride, approx. 12 min from Haliburton. This is a must see property to appreciate!

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1211 GELERT ROAD $1,200,000

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- Home is a dual heat system. Can use either forced air propane furnace or forced air wood boiler.
- 55'x24' shop or office with in-floor heating, steps from the house.
- More outbuildings and storage on the property, Heated greenhouse
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Nature in your backyard

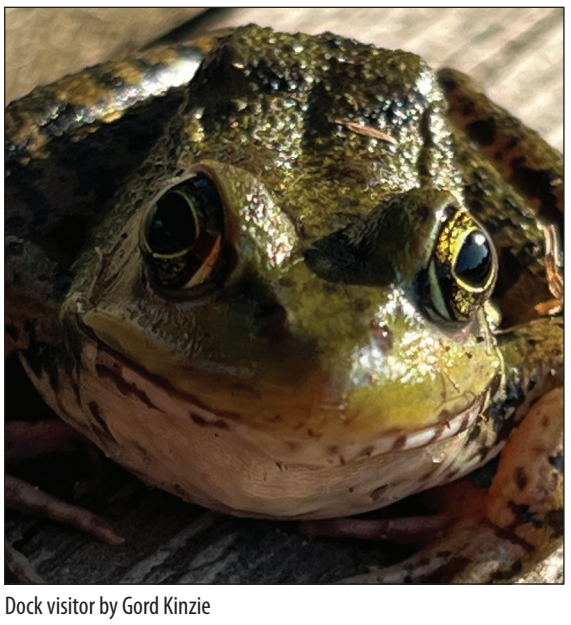
County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Brewer Lake by Tammy Nash

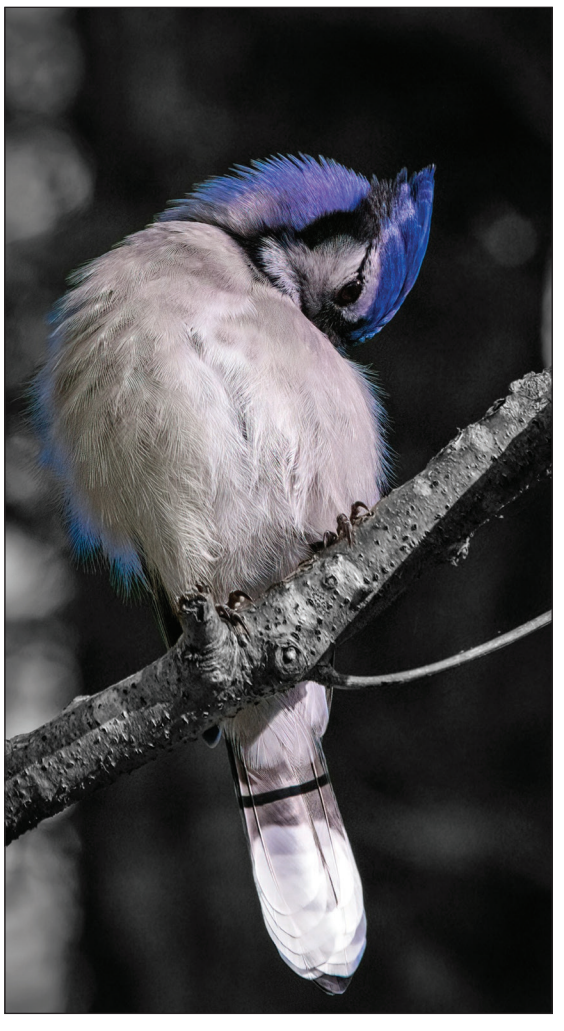
Changing seasons by Debi Ireland

Red breasted nuthatch by Jill Moulton

Singing loon by Debi Ireland



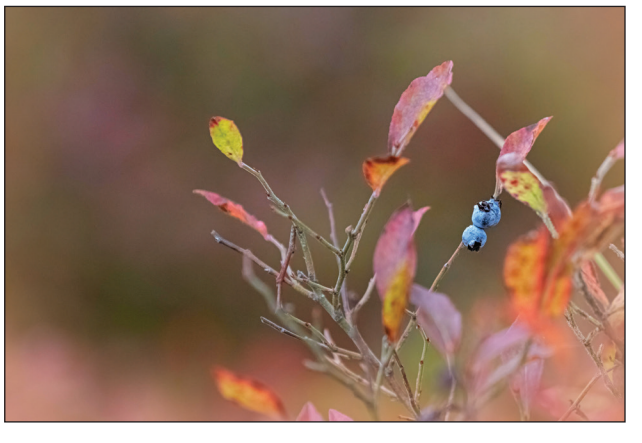
Dock visitor by Gord Kinzie



Blue Jay by Tammy Nash

Monarch by Gord Kinzie

Fun fungi by Debi Ireland



Blueberries still around Tammy Nash

Ducks by Debi Ireland

Turtle family by Tammy Nash

Above, Fisher by Tammy Nash

Red-necked Grebe by Jill Moulton

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The numbers are off

IF YOU go to a duck camp for any length of time you will notice that there isn't a correlation between the number of ducks harvested and the number that were reported shot. For instance, when it comes time to clean and process the birds you might see 17 birds for four hunters. But later when details of the hunt are disseminated to the world at large, the total number of birds taken turns out to be 24.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Mathematicians have avoided this conundrum ever since duck hunting was invented. For, it seems unsolvable.

Luckily, while at duck camp last weekend, I took notes, observed carefully, and made complicated calculations. When it was all over, I was amazed and excited. For I believe I have solved this mathematical mystery.

I call it Galea's Duckmath formula. But it applies for deer, grouse, woodcock, moose, and any other animal that is hunted by more than one hunter.

The formula is Reported number of birds = Actual number of birds up to a limit X every hunter in the group.

Here's how it works.

Two hunters walk into camp after a morning hunt and the people sitting there say, "How many birds did you guys get?"

The actual number of birds in the game bag is seven. All you need to do is look to confirm that. Yet, when the first hunter tells the story, which always occurs as soon as their hunting partner leaves the room, he or she will say, quite conspiratorially, that he shot a limit of birds (six) and the other guy got one. That adds up to the actual number of birds which is seven, so it makes sense.

Where it gets complicated is when the second hunter enters the room. For as soon as the first hunter leaves that hunter will say, "Between you and me, I got six and Steve got one…" Which, frankly, is a dirty lie.

Yet again, this adds up to seven, so it could conceivably make sense if the other hunter was not such a known liar, which he is.

Needless to say, all of this really means nothing, until game surveys are being conducted. For at that point, both hunters will report ix birds, which means the biologists will take it to mean 12 were harvested when, in fact, only seven were, of which, of course, Steve shot six.

This might not seem like a big thing until every other hunter in the province reports at the end of the season and skews the numbers. That's when biologists will hear that 7,654, 345 ducks were shot, when, in actuality, there were only 54. (Of which Steve shot 48.)

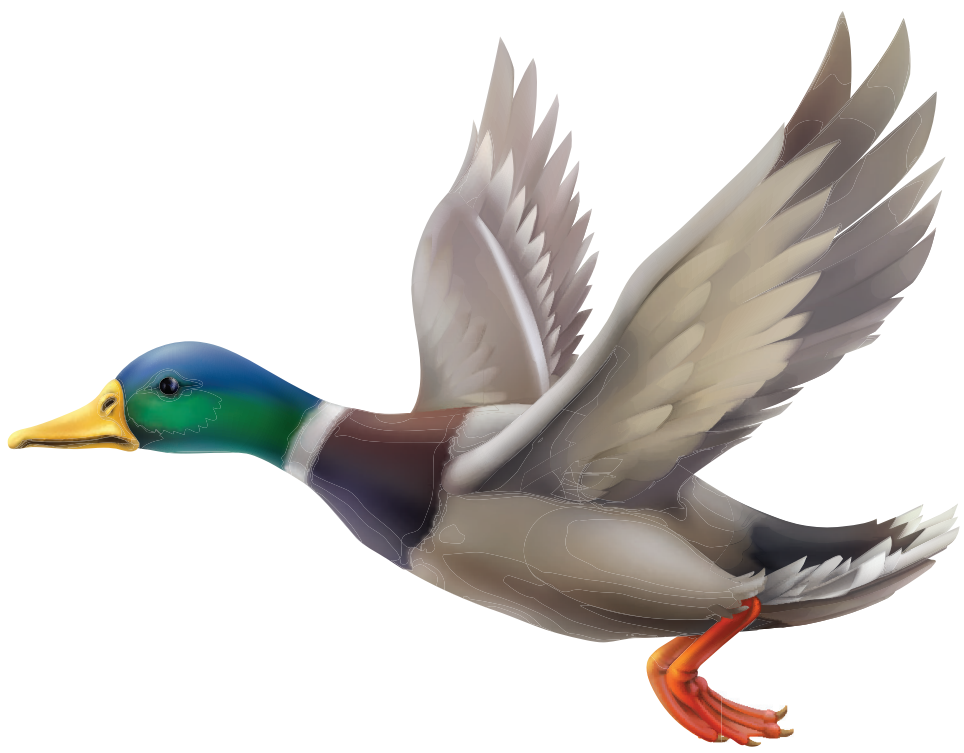
Obviously, this sort of reporting can have an impact on hunting regulations and the daily limits set by the powers that be.

Also, it might cause ammunition companies to produce far more ammunition than is required for the next season. Which might mean layoffs the following year.

Even worse, as I indicated, is that this applies for deer and other game too. I have actually witnessed situations where the same big buck was apparently "shot" by six hunters, despite the fact that it only had one bullet hole in it. (Mine.)

Obviously, this kind of thing wreaks havoc on hunter reports. Fortunately, now biologists can use my Duckmath formula to extrapolate correct harvest numbers.

Otherwise, the numbers just don't add up.



Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

A Film Screening of A Return to Memory
When: Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
When World War II erupted, the National Film Board of Canada faced a call to action – and hundreds of courageous women answered, laying the very foundation of Canadian cinema as we know it. Through archival footage, animation, and expert storytelling, this film brings to life the overlooked pioneers behind the Film Board's cinematic legacy. No registration required. The film is provided courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada in collaboration with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

Hands-on Needle Felting Workshop
When: Oct. 9 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library in Haliburton Village
Craft a charming miniature pumpkin from soft wool. No prior experience is needed – our staff will guide you step by step through the basics of shaping, layering, and finishing your felted piece. Create a one-of-a-kind mini pumpkin to display as festive fall décor or give as a handmade gift! All materials provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

One-on-One Tech Help Session
When: Oct. 10 between 1 and 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Stuck on a tech problem? Need help navigating new software, setting up your devices, or troubleshooting an issue? Register for a 30-minute session. No tech question is too big or small! Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Free Halloween Costume Swap
When: Oct. 11 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills and Dysart Libraries
Looking for the perfect Halloween costume? Browse a selection of gently-used costumes and accessories for all ages—no donation required to participate. Help reduce waste, save money, and celebrate the spooky season. First come, first served – while supplies last.

Introduction to Palmistry with Catherine Harper
When: October 11th from 2-3pm
Where: Wilberforce Library
Ever wonder what secrets your hands might be holding? Explore the ancient art of hand reading. Recommended for ages 14+. Registration required, drop ins welcome. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Highlands East Skating Club Registration
When: Tuesdaym, Oct.14 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Where: Keith Tallman Memorial Arena, Wilberforce
Please remember to bring health card.

Genealogy for Seniors
When: Oct. 15
Where: Dorset Library at 10:30am or the Stanhope Library at 1pm
Curious about where you come from? An inspiring introduction to family history research led by Adele Espina of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, with support provided by the Government of Ontario. This workshop will walk you through the steps of building your family tree — from locating historical records to organizing your research and uncovering meaningful stories from your past.

Free Hands-on Needle Felting Workshop
When: Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Craft a charming miniature pumpkin from soft wool. No prior experience is needed – our staff will guide you step by step through the basics of shaping, layering, and finishing your felted piece. Create a one-of-a-kind mini pumpkin to display as festive fall décor or give as a handmade gift! All materials provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Wellness Connections Program
When: Beginning Oct. 16 running every two weeks until Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Dysart Library in Haliburton Village
Offered in partnership with the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team and Haliburton Highlands Health Services. This free program is designed to help older adults maintain independence, build healthy habits, and learn strategies to avoid frailty. The program is a 4-session group series with supportive discussions and practical tips for healthy living. Online modules also available. To register, call 705-457-2941 extension 2932.

Craft a Magical Potion Bottle
When: Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Minden Hills Library
Step into our cauldron of creativity this October. A bewitching activity for all ages! All materials will be provided, recommended for ages 5+. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Learn about the Ancient Art of Card Reading
When: Saturday, Oct. 18 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
As October casts its golden glow and the veil between worlds grows thin, step into the enchanting realm of tarot with intuitive guide Catherine Harper. Registration required, drop ins welcome. Recommended for ages 14+. Call 705-457-2241 or email rograms@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

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WINTER GUIDE
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To see your local free event listed in our Winter Guide Magazine, email

HaliburtonWinterGuide@gmail.com

The guide will include events that take place in December 2025, and January through April 2026.

Listing Deadline is October 10, 2025

The Echo Haliburton County | County Life | The Times Minden Ontario

kids' corner

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

B

Food FACT:

This food is one of the most popular comfort foods around the world.

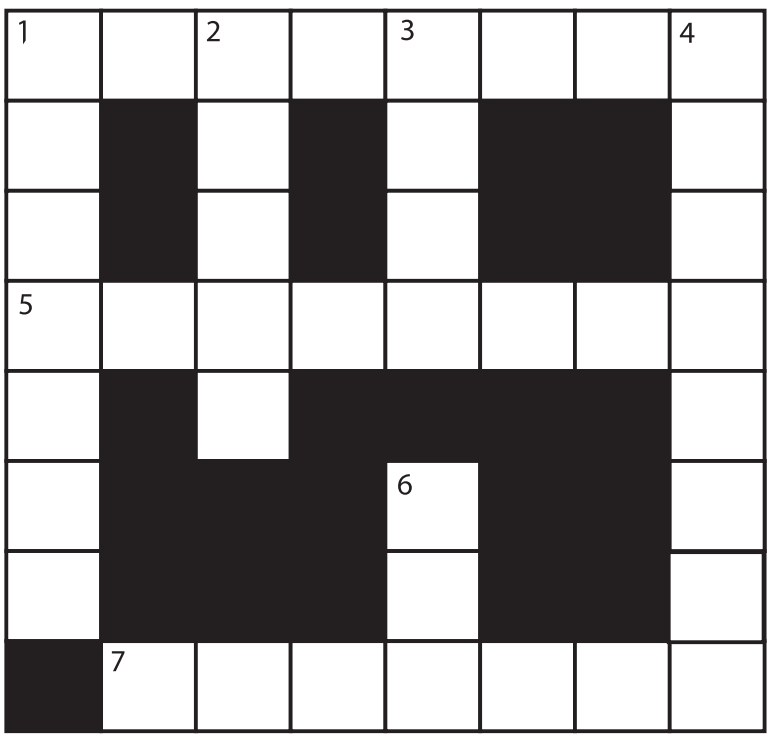
Answer: Pizza

"How they say that in..."

English: Dough
Spanish: Masa
Italian: Impasto
French: Pâte
German: Teig

Answers: 1. Garnish missing from stuffing 2. Extra slice of turkey 3. Missing knife 4. Pie in place of cranberries

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Parcels
5. Tidy a space
7. Liquid turning into a gas

DOWN

1. Nuts that are not a nut
2. Transparent
3. Pain
4. Trying things out
6. Liquid fat

Across Packages 5. Neaten up 7. Boiling
Down Peanuts 2. Clear 3. Ache 4. Sampling 6. Oil

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Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/person
Friday night BBQ
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Monday:
Oct. 13, 20, 27 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Wednesday:
Oct. 15, 22, 29 Darts $4/player 2 p.m.
Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 pm.
Cribbage League 6:30 – Sign up at the Legion
Thursday:
Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Oct. 9, 23 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday:
Oct. 17, 31 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Oct. 10, 24 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon
Wings and Jam Session $15/lb 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday:
Oct.18 Pop-Up Darts Supplies Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Horseshoes Tournament. Registration at 10 a.m. Play starts at 11 a.m. $20
Open Mic. 2 to 6 p.m.. Free. 3 p.m. Meat Draw, Trivia Night 7 p.m. $5 per player
Oct. 25 Halloween Karaoke Party 8pm-1am. Free
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221
Sunday:
Oct. 19 L.A Breakfast $10. 9 to 11 a.m. Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221
Oct. 25 Halloween Karaoke Party 8pm-1am. Free
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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Growler Lake — $1,488,000 — 4 / 5 — MLS X12236651

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kawartha Lakes — $1,479,000 — 3 / 3 — MLS X12182250

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Canning Lake — $924,900 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12146750

Long Lake — $899,990 — 2 / 6 — MLS X12176356

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $815,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12176356

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $795,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12169805

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Beech Lake — $799,900 — 2 / 2 — MLS X12250094

Opportunity *New Listing*

Minden Hills — $749,000 — 3 / 3 — MLS X12398280

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $725,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12347900

Kennisis River — $725,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12137708

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Trooper Lake — $699,000 — 2 / 3 — MLS X12236448

Opportunity *New Listing*

Little Cameron Lake — $698,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12416325

Eagle Lake Area — $659,900 — 1 / 2 — MLS X12095585

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Salerno Lake — $659,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12253284

Kushog Lake — $599,900 — 2 / 4 — MLS X12227417

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Wenona Lake — $578,000 — 1 / 3 — MLS X12367256

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Haliburton — $435,000 — 2 / 2 — MLS X12343741

Opportunity *New Listing*

Minden Hills — $419,900 — 1 / 2 — MLS X12415983

Opportunity *Price Refresh*

Gelert Road — $350,000 — 1 / 2 — MLS X12267121

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Despite provincial cuts

Board balances budget

by Ariel White

The Trillium Lakelands Districts School Board approved a balanced operating budget for the coming year at its regular board meeting last week despite almost four million dollars less than the projected funding allocation from the Ministry of Education and Training.

Retiring Superintendent Al Ingram presented the budget to the board at the Lindsay Education Centre last Tuesday. The budget includes a total grant allocation of $136,794,710 which is $3,671,955 less than the projected amount from the ministry. "This is a balanced budget as required by the province," said Ingram. He also noted that 64 per cent of the budget would be assigned to classroom spending, two per cent above the provincial requirement. The provincial definition of classroom spending, according to Ingram does not include administrators, support staff such as school secretaries, custodians or the contentious issue of teacher preparation time.

The area of technology is of concern to Ingram as well. He feels that the province did not allocate acceptable support for computers in class-

(more on page 4)

Terry's helpers

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students and staff provided refreshments at Haliburton's Head Lake Park during the High School's Terry Fox Run. HHSS principal Gary Brohman and teacher Paul Longo stopped momentarily for a break and photo opportunity. Pictured with them are, front row, from the left: Russell Snoddon, Stef Stevens and Lisa Burk. Back row: Chris Snoddon, Paul Longo, Krista Matysek, Gary Brohman, Nichole Sisco, Linda Brandon and Patti Brydon. For photos from the Minden Terry Fox Run, see page 17.

GO!

The waiting is almost over for Haliburton County residents anxious to see signs of activity at the two hospital building sites. Work is scheduled to begin this week on the long awaited projects.

Construction site superintendent

(more on page 3)

Policing costs could jump $250,000

by Jerry Grozelle

Staff Sergeant Andy Millar, along with OPP superintendents Chris Wyatt and Steve Ostrowski appeared before Haliburton County council Wednesday, September 23 to explain a proposed realignment of services that would see Haliburton County's policing costs jump by $250,000. Millar explained that the County of Victoria has asked the OPP to provide contract costing for the county, with the exception of Lindsay (and Ops Township, which has opted to buy its police services from the Lindsay Police Force). A five-year contract has been signed between Lindsay and Ops Township.

The Times contacted Victoria County Warden John Macklem, who said he was surprised when the announcement was made.

"We got back-doored," he said. "We were trying to negotiate a deal for the entire county. It's tough for us to know what our role is. There could be an interesting ripple effect."

Local police forces are only allowed by legislation to provide services to contiguous municipalities (those which border their jurisdiction). In order for the Lindsay force to provide police services to any other municipality outside the Town of Lindsay, it had to secure a contract with Ops, since Ops Township completely surrounds Lindsay. Ops was in an enviable position in that negotiation process.

Under the OPP proposal, police services between Victoria and Haliburton would become separated. The Lindsay and Coboconk offices would amalgamate, with the two being renamed Victoria Detachment. Administration for the entire county, excluding Lindsay and Ops, would be handled from the OPP office in Lindsay. The Lindsay and Coboconk offices would both remain as operational centres, with Coboconk covering the northern part of the county.

Victoria County would benefit from a lower cost of administration, with one detachment commander reporting to the governing body; a greater inte-

(more on page 12)

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BEACHCOMBER

Living Healthy, Living Happy

The benefits of hydrotherapy have been known for thousands of years. With the power of nature's healing agents - heat, water and air - enjoy a deeply relaxing hydrotherapeutic experience in a hot tub. All it takes is just a 15-30 minutes soak, to improve your general physical and mental well-being. From relieving muscle aches and pains, to releasing endorphins to naturally boost your mood, to promoting a restful night's sleep, and many more - learn about the many health and wellness benefits of hot tub therapy.

Hot Tubs & Spas

The Pump Shop is your desitination for hot tubs and spas specifically suited for your cottage or home in Haliburton. The Pump Shop also provides a wide selection of Hot Tub accessories, parts and servicing for many Hot Tub makes and models.

Looking for a hassle free maintenance routine? Let our team of service technicians take care of your hot tub – leaving you to simply sit back, relax and enjoy! Our maintenance package includes a bi-weekly routine of water balancing, filter cleaning and maintaining the general operation of your hot tub in optimal condition.

We also offer general maintenance, repairs, parts and accessories on many hot tub makes and models.

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PUMP SHOP
WATER SPECIALISTS

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